

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 7A, 7B, 8E, 9A and 9B. These sheets, which include FIGS. 7A, 7B, 8E, 9A and 9B, replace the existing sheets of figures which include FIGS. 7A, 7B, 8E, 9A and 9B.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 25, 2006. Claims 24-46 are currently pending, of which, claim 24 has been amended herein. Reconsideration of the present application, as presently presented, is respectfully requested.

The specification has been objected to as failing to include "proper headings". Applicant submits that the specification has been amended herein to include suggested headings at appropriate locations.

The specification has been objected to as using the same character number for multiple elements. Applicant submits that the specification has been amended herein to correct said informality.

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The specification and the drawings have been amended herein in a manner which is believed to overcome the objection to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) as failing to include certain reference signs mentioned in the description. Applicant respectfully submits that, in amended FIGS. 7A, 7B, 9A and 9B, the previously omitted element numerals have been added. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings, under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5), has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner has indicated that claims 29 to 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 24-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,689,905 to Vartan. It is submitted that independent Claim 24 is patentable over Vartan because Vartan fails to render Claim 24 obvious.

Independent Claim 24 recites a combined trouser press and ironing board assembly, including, *inter alia*, a pressure plate, a surface of which is clampable against the heatable pad in a first position to sandwich a garment to be pressed therebetween, one end of the pressure plate being pivotally attached to the body to allow said plate to pivot about said one end towards and away from the heatable pad into a second position for ironing in which the pressure plate extends laterally outwardly relative to the heatable pad and the surface of the pressure plate, which was facing the heatable pad in said first position, now defines a surface on which a garment is placed for ironing.

Vartan discloses a laundry press contained in a rectangular cabinet, wherein the cabinet, upon opening, includes at least one panel member hinged at the bottom for bracing the cabinet in an upright position and provides, at its upper end, the support structure for a buck and heated pressing plate for placing on the garments the desired press.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has equated the "heatable pad" of Claim 24 with the chrome plate 30 housed in pressing plate "P" of Vartan, and has equated the "pressure plate" of Claim 24 with the buck "B" of Vartan.

Applicant respectfully submits that the buck “B” of Vartan is not clampable against the heatable plate 30, as recited in Claim 24. Rather, the buck “B” of Vartan does not move during a pressing operation. It is the heatable plate 30 which is brought into pressing engagement with the buck 30. Accordingly, it is the heatable plate 30 which is clampable against the buck “B”. In particular, “the plate 30 bears on the buck “B” with essentially uniform force”. (see Col. 3, lines 40-43).

Additionally, as seen in FIGS. 2d and 2e of Vartan, the first position of the buck “B” must be the pressing position, wherein the buck “B” extends at right angles to the housing “C”. The buck “B” is movable to a second position, in which the buck “B” extends laterally away, but not outwardly, from the heatable plate 30. However, as shown in FIG. 2c of Vartan, this second position represents a storage position in which the buck “B” is vertically located within the housing “C”. Accordingly, since the buck “B” is now in a vertical position, the surface of the buck “B”, which was facing the heatable plate 30 in the first position, now clearly cannot possibly define a surface on which a garment can be placed for ironing.

Moreover, according to Vartan, the buck “B” has “an overall elliptical configuration of high eccentricity in section”. (see Col. 3, lines 50-51) Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the buck “B” is clearly not inherently usable or functional as an ironing board, as advanced or offered by the Examiner.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, in view of the arguments presented above, that Claims 24 is patentable over Vartan.

Since Claims 25-28 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 24, and contain all of the features of Claim 24, for the reasons presented above regarding the patentability of Claim 24, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 25-28 are also patentable over Vartan.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 24-46 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview may facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned representative at the number indicated below.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted.



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